

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 DPW-01 IO-13

RSR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /138 W

----- 084344

O R 291311Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5594

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACAF

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

388 TFW KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

354 TFW KORAT RTAFB

56 SOW NKP

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432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP
8 TFW UBON
ARMA/AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6015

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - 29 AUGUST 1973

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TFW, 56 SOW, 388 TFW,
354 TFW AND 8 TFW FOR DO/DI; MACTHAI FOR J-2
AND PAO

REF: VIENTIANE 5958

I. MILITARY SITUATION:

A. MR'S I, IV AND V: NO CEASEFIRE INCIDENTS REPORTED AUGUST
27-29.

B. MR II: ON AUGUST 26, A FRIENDLY COMPANY, PATROLLING 27 JM
SOUTHEAST OF MUONG MOC, TRIGGERED A SUSPECTED ENEMY MINE, KILLING
ONE MAN.

C. MR III: FIVE CEASEFIRE INCIDENTS REPORTED THIS PERIOD. FIRST
TWO TOOK PLACE 37 KM NORTHWEST OF THAKHEK AND INVOLVED SAME
FRIENDLY UNIT, WHICH RECEIVED MINOR ENEMY GROUND ATTACK AUGUST
23, LOSING 2 MIA, THEN RECEIVED MINOR ATTACK BY MORTAR FIRE AUGUST
24. IN MINOR ACTION AUGUST 25, ENEMY COMPANY ATTACKED FRIENDLY UNIT
58 KM SOUTH/SOUTHEAST OF KENGKOK. NO CASUALTIES REPORTED. MINOR
ENEMY ATTACK BY FIRE ON FRIENDLY COMPANY REPORTED 10 KM NORTH/
NORTHEAST OF DONG HENE ON AUGUST 25. SAME FRIENDLY COMPANY UNDERWENT
MINOR ENEMY GROUND ATTACK AND ATTACK BY MORTAR FIRE AUGUST 27.
RLAF FLEW ONE AC-47 SORTIE IN SUPPORT OF THIS LAST ACTION.

II. POLITICAL SITUATION:

A. THERE IS NO PROGRESS TO REPORT ON THE NEGOTIATING FRONT,
AS THE LAO LEADERSHIP--INCLUDING 11 LPF REPRESENTATIVES-- ATTENDED
THE BOAT RACES IN LUANG PRABANG AUGUST 28. THERE WERE CONTACTS
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BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN LUANG PRABANG, BUT NOTHING NEW EMERGED.
ACCORDING TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FROM LUANG PRABANG, RLG
NEGOTIATORS PHENG PHONGSAVAN AND NGON SANANIKONE WERE GOING TO
BRIEF LP CIVIL SERVANTS THIS MORNING, AUGUST 29, ON THE STATE OF
THE PROTOCOL BEFORE RETURNING TO VIENTIANE.

B. XAT LAO AND SIENG SERI BOTH NOTED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE
BOGGED DOWN. SIENG SERI, ON AUGUST 29, SAID THE PROTOCOL WOULD NOT

BE SIGNED DUE TO THE INTRANSIGENT WAY THE LPF IS HOLDING TO ITS DEMANDS. XAT LAO, CITING RELIABLE AND WELL-INFORMED SOURCES, SAID, AUGUST 29, THAT 11 POINTS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED. AMONG THESE POINTS ARE THE NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG, THE ROLE OF THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, THE DESIGNATION OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS, AND THE PLACEMENT OF DEMARCATION STAKES TO DIVIDE MILITARY FORCES OF TWO SIDES AT VARIOUS HOT SPOTS. XAT LAO, COMMENTING ON THE USG POSITION, SAID "AMERICAN SOURCES IN VIENTIANE HAVE MADE KNOWN THAT WASHINGTON WISHES THAT THE RESOLUTION OF THE LAO CONFLICT TAKE PLACE ON THE BASIS OF STRICT EQUALITY FOR THE TWO SIDES." (COMMENT: BOTH ARTICLES ARE UNHELPFUL, BUT XAT LAO'S PUBLICATION OF DETAILS OF SECRET RLG'S JOINT MILITARY-CABINET MEETING (WHERE 11 POINTS EMERGED) IS PARTICULARLY UNWELCOME DEVELOPMENT, SINCE IT EXPOSES THE NEGOTIATORS TO INCREASED PUBLIC SECURITINY, CRITICISM AND PRESSURE.)

C. CALM PREVAILS IN VIENTIANE, AS THE CURFEW HAS BEEN EASED TO 0100 - 0500 HOURS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MEKONG IS, AS THE RESULT OF HEAVY RAINS UPSTREAM, APPROACHING FLOOD LEVELS. AIR AMERICA AIRCRAFT ARE BEING EVACUATED TO UDORN TO WAIT FOR THE RIVER TO CREST AND SUBSIDE.

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